

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested on the Official Action of April 19, 2004 relating to the above-identified application.

It is noted that the drawings which accompany the application have not been indicated as being accepted by the Examiner and therefore applicants respectfully request that the Examiner review the drawings and indicate that they have been accepted.

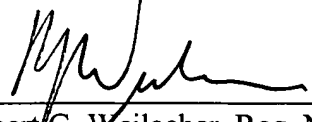
With regard to the objection to Claim 8 on the ground of alleged informalities, Claim 8 has now been amended; and, therefore, it is believed that the objection has been overcome.

It is noted that a double patenting rejection has been entered in connection with this application in view of the alleged conflict with Claims 8 to 11 of co-pending application number 10/608,835. Applicants would point out to the Examiner that Claims 8 to 11 in the companion application 10/608,835 have been deleted by way of a preliminary amendment. Accordingly, the basis for the double patenting rejection does not exist.

It is believed that the application is now in proper condition and therefore favorable action at the Examiner's earliest convenience is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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